

Press Release



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RUFORUM and World Bank jointly launch “Call for Proposals” to Strengthening Higher Agricultural Education for Agri-Food Systems Transformation in six African countries

Kampala, 31 August 2018. In collaboration with the governments of Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique, and, The World Bank Group ([WBG](#)) and the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture ([RUFORUM](#)) are pleased to launch the call for proposals for the regional programme for Strengthening Higher Agricultural Education for Agri-Food Systems Transformation in Africa ([SHAEA](#)). The purpose of this Call is to invite universities from the above-mentioned six African countries, who meet the eligibility criteria and are interested in becoming a Regional Anchor University (RAU), to submit applications in partnership with tertiary education institutions, including post-secondary agricultural vocational institutions and key agricultural sector actors, both public and private.

The SHAEA Project is intended to develop competent and relevant human resources required to accelerate agri-food systems transformation in Africa through strengthening (i) agri-food related education and training enhanced with transdisciplinary approaches, experiential learning and applied research at selected African regional anchor universities in six key gap areas; (ii) university linkages to the agricultural sector at both the regional and national levels; and (iii) university partnership with private and public entities related to agri-food both within and outside Africa. The six key gap areas are; 1) Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship; 2) Agri-food Systems and Nutrition; 3) Rural Innovation and Agriculture Extension; 4) Agricultural Risk Management and Climate Change Proofing; 5) Agriculture Policy Analysis; 6) Statistical Analysis, Foresight and Data Management.

Regional Anchor Universities will be selected from participating countries through a transparent and competitive process and do not need to be [RUFORUM members](#). All submitted proposals that meet the eligibility criteria will be evaluated by an independent evaluation committee and the SHAEA Regional Steering Committee will make the final selection.

More information on the Call can be accessed at www.ruforum/SHAEA/.

Notes to Editors:

Established by African university vice chancellors in 2004, the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a consortium of 85 African universities operating in 36 countries on the continent with a vision to create “a vibrant agricultural sector linked to African universities which produce high-performing graduates and high-quality research responsive to the demands of Africa’s farmers for innovations and able to generate sustainable livelihoods and national economic development”. RUFORUM Secretariat is hosted by the Ministry of Education and Sports in Uganda with Secretariat at Makerere University in Kampala. In 2014, RUFORUM signed an MoU with the African Union Commission to support implementation of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024) Priority One on reducing poverty and ensuring food and nutrition security. As of August 2017, RUFORUM has supported the training of 1,716 MSc and 436 PhD graduates of whom 94% work in their home countries or region, generated over 300 agricultural technologies and mobilized over US\$169 million for strengthening postgraduate education in Africa. Please visit www.ruforum.org for more information.

About SHAEA Project

The Strengthening Higher Agricultural Education in Africa (SHAEA) Project is a five-year regional initiative that is being developed through multi-year consultations across Africa by the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) with mandate from the Africa Union Commission. The initiative builds on Africa’s efforts to stimulate agri-food system transformation in support of the Malabo Declaration and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Specifically, SHAEA’s Project development objective is to strengthen linkages between selected African universities and regional agricultural sector needs for developing required human resources to accelerate agri-food system transformation in Africa. SHAEA is an investment project financed by the World Bank.

For additional information, photos and interviews, contact the RUFORUM Corporate Communications & Advocacy Officer below;

Name: Maureen Agena Corporate Communications, & Advocacy Officer **Email:** communications@ruforum.org
